The Lions' Pride

Saint Leo University •Friday, March 11, 2016•Volume LV No. 23 •Since 1965

Help SGU Help You

By Kimberly Scott-Williams
Contributing Writer

Photo By Kimberly Scott-Williams

(From left) Joseph Thompson III, Marlene Camacho, Joshua Bartholomew, Melissa Bryan and Brooke Bonsted. SGU elected board members in front of the "For Those Who Serve" bronze statue by Dexter Benedict erected in 2010, which sits between the SCC and SAB building.

On Feb. 24, the five new elected board was announced via email at noon. Since then, the five newly elected board members have been elated to start their journey in their post.

In the Saint Leo community, many people do not seem to realize how much power these five board members have in the school community; therefore, it is shocking that with such a powerful position and chance to make a difference only fifteen people applied for the position.

Edson O'Neale, director for Student Activities, who is also the advisor for Student Government Union (SGU), said, "Persons who might have wanted to apply had a lack of confidence or simply because they knew they weren't as active in school as they ought to be."

The determination and highly involved candidates, however, were determined to apply either because it fit well with their majors and careers.

"I would like to become a key stakeholder in the justice system of my country, Jamaica, the United States, as well as the world at large," said Melissa Bryan, the vice president of Operations.

Or they were, "Called to be the next SGU president," Joshua Bartholomew, the newly elected president, explained.

Contrastingly, in the case of Joseph Thompson III, the current and newly elected vice president of Activities, it was different for him to be on the 2016-2017 board.

"I am the current Vice President of Activities and I just felt like I wasn't done offering the campus more creative events. I felt like there was so much more I could offer in this role that I didn't get to accomplish in my term this year. Yes, my team and I brought this campus many new events and successful traditional events, but I feel we could always do more."

Running and staying motivated to run is something completely left up to determination and how much that person really wants the position. Convincingly, these five persons were ready to step to the plate no matter what it takes.

"The great Mohandas Gandhi once said, 'Be the change you want to see in the world.' I believed that this opportunity would lay the foundation for me to enable me to be that change I want to see," Bryan said.

Knowledge of each position and its duties is a good recipe in order to effectively fill each position. Brooke Bonsted, the vice president of Communication Management elect, she did just that, educate then work to her goal.

"After educating myself on the Vice President of Communications Management position, I realized how much I truly wanted the position. I believe educating myself and planning new ways to make the position even more successful motivated me more and more each day of the election. All I wanted was to see my new plans of success become a reality," said Bonsted.

Campaign strategies were essential in order to vie for the hearts of the SLU student body to vote for them. During the duration of the elections, there were a lot of candidates meeting and greeting schoolmates to vote for them. Some candidates gave out fliers, took their platform to social media and even wrote on the corridor floors in chalk to "Vote for me". The atmosphere intensified when it got closer and closer to the elections.

"My team used strategies from the mock presidential election on campus in the Fall," Bartholomew explained.

Marlene Camacho, the vice president of Finance elect, said, "I also asked a fellow political science major for some pointers on my campaign and she was definitely a great help. Finally, I teamed up with another SGU candidate and tabled outside of the SAB. We talked about the elections and also provided handmade 'election reminders,' which were Coke cans made out of card stock with the slogan 'share a vote' and our names on it and position of interest."

After the dust had settled, the waiting began as the hearts of each competitor were unsettled or unnerved but in Bryan's case, "I believed that it was my destiny to win because I was nervous at one point. However, throughout the journey, I kept on telling myself, 'What God has in store for you. No man can take that away from you.'"

In Thompson's perspective, he was unsure about the chances of becoming re-elected as, "Not many people in SGU have won elections in a consecutive year."

Positivity was one thing but knowing that there were many good candidates, the votes could have swayed in either direction.

The rest of the candidates thought this way also; however, Camacho was determined to stay positive the entire time and, "Never gave up on my campaign and hard work."

On the very day that election winners were to be announced, there had been anticipation in the air as the students and candidates alike all wondered what the results would be like. The results were posted via email in the afternoon, and then the school was in a huge outburst.

"Before seeing the email that I won the election, I was getting a million of texts that said congratulations," Bonsted said.

Camacho explained that she was very anxious but one the results came, "I was the happiest student at Saint Leo. I laughed of joy and almost cried tears of happiness. I was very proud of myself and I called my mom. Ultimately, I made sure to thank every individual that was there for me through it all with their help and support."

Bartholomew, on the other hand, was, "Humble and glad to serve the students."

Now that the board members elect know that they have won, they plan to serve Saint Leo to the best of their ability. In order for that to happen the students must "Help me, Help SL(U)!" which was Bryan's catch phrase in the election. They will be officially installed on Apr. 15 this year, and will have a weekly meeting to do that, serving the students of Saint Leo.

Bartholomew indicated that, "Community is our Mission. We want to bring the community together, using our resources to fulfill the dreams and hope of our student body a reality."

The current and elected Vice President of Activities felt that he had always made an impact on the school by, "Pushing the limit and exceeding expectations."

He feels that although they bring traditional events that the campus is used to and loves he wants to further push the limits and, "Bring things that this campus has never seen before."

Bryan has many visions for this upcoming school year, which include reforming the constitution.

Bryan said, "There are many gray areas in the SGU Constitution, and I intend on improving it and making it more up to date to keep up with the ever-growing needs and changes of the current and future student body. I want to give the student body the opportunity to provide input and feedback in regards to what they would like to see in the constitution."

Bryan indeed desires to uphold her campaign slogan, "Help me, Help SL(U)!"

Camacho also applies to this phase as she said that, "I believe that I can improve the social and academic experience of students of Saint Leo, not only through allocations but also through hard work, dedication, and being a true advocate for everyone."

Although Camacho's job is to make a budget of the student government she plans on improving each section of the SGU as stated; "I plan to continue the outstanding work and progress that the current VPF has made and strive for improvement and success. Lastly, I believe that I can inspire other students to become leaders and to be a better them!"

Like everyone on the elected board, Bonsted wants to improve her sector the best way she can, "There are many impacts I want to make during this time I am serving; however, working on the student government union social media websites will be one of the many."

Bonsted also hinted that she has many organizations' social chair positions but wants to see, "SGU sites to have more of a following, reactions, comments, and contest."

Editorial

Video Games as Interactive Art

By Jonah Robertson
Editor-In-Chief

The general perception of video games in recent years has shifted from one of dismissal to one of acceptance, but even so many refuse to acknowledge them as an art form. Instead, games are often viewed as pure entertainment, with no legitimate artistic validity. However, especially in the past five years, more and more game developers have been focusing on the more artistic elements of their games. The quality of the textures and models used in creating the world and characters has improved drastically, as has much of the story writing and voice-acting. Some games have even become cerebral or emotional experiences more focused on making their players think or feel than on being an engaging interactive medium.

While the argument can certainly be made that games such as the "Call of Duty" series, or something like "Mortal Kombat" might not be the most artistically sound, they still involve enormous amounts of work creating an exciting visual and auditory experience, and those elements deserve recognition. However, these types of games most likely cannot be considered complete works of art because every element of them does not demonstrate a mastery of the craft. These games can absolutely be appreciate for their value, but should not fully qualify as art, as the writing and voice acting tends to be rather sub-par.

On the other side of the spectrum one will find games like "The Last of Us," "Spec Ops: The Line," and "The Stanley Parable." Each of these games in some way ventured beyond traditional game design and became a true paradigm of game design. While none of these games is perfect, each made a truly resounding impact in some way, whether emotional, intellectual, or psychological.

"The Last of Us" confronted difficult emotional issues. The main character, Joel, must confront the loss of his loved ones. His daughter dies in the beginning of the game, and throughout the tale he deals with this trauma. The game has artistic relevance primarily because it confronts how parents deal with the loss of their children. While the gameplay and visual design were also fantastic, the fact that the designers were willing to confront such difficult issues warrants the game's recognition into the cannon of truly artistic video games.

"Spec Ops: The Line" took a similar angle, dealing with serious emotional content and hiding it under a layer of action and violence. While "The Last of Us" dealt with familial loss, "Spec Ops" confronts civilian casualties during wartime, as well as PTSD and how it effects soldiers. The game takes common action game tropes like excessive violence and over-the-top cinematic action and uses them to show everything that is wrong with war. The characters must come to terms with the deaths of innocents, and the fact that they caused them, and that leads them to contemplating whether they are truly working for good or evil.

"The Stanley Parable" is a different kind of game. While the previous two games confronted serious emotional content, "The Stanley Parable" instead focuses on introspection and existential questions. The game follows a character, known as Stanley, attempting to understand what his purpose in life is after being freed from a boring job pushing buttons in a corporate office. The game allows Stanley to make decisions that determine what his path is, but all of them lead to him having to confront what the point of his life is, and if he truly has a choice in what happens to him, or if he is instead forced to follow a certain path no matter what.

All three of these games have various qualities that should qualify for them to be consider art. The first two confront serious emotional content that provokes thought, while "The Stanley Parable" deals with whether choice really matters. Prompting thought and introspection is one ofthe primary qualities of art, and many games absolutely do this. While not every single game can be considered a work of art, neither can ever painting, or novel, or movie, and as such games should not be partitioned off into a different category. As with every other artistic medium, games need to be considered based on all of their qualities, and not discounted purely because they appeal to the masses.

Photo From twitter@Digressive

Alongside the intense emotional content, the visuals in "Spec Ops: The Line" are stunning.

Check us out online at www.prideonlinedotnet.wordpress.com

Fire Emblem Awakening

Photo From Twitter @NintendoAmerica

Imagine being a prince or princess of one kingdom only to learn that you are actually the prince or princess of a different kingdom. Which kingdom would you want to rule? "Fire Emblem Awakening" explores this idea with wonderful characters and gripping storylines.

Women's Golf Begins

Photo From Twitter @saintleogolf

The Championship season begins for women's golf as they competed in their first tournament of the year, while also welcoming a new teammate. Find out how they did, and how they expect this part of their year to go.

Far Cry Primal Review

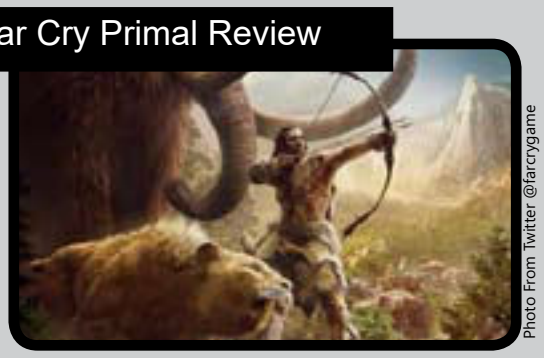

Photo From Twitter @farcrygame

It's a fight for survival in "Far Cry Primal." This prehistoric world is a tough and unpredictable one. Find out if you're interested in the game with our review.

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Campus News

The YVAIN Grant Award

By Joey Savoie
Contributing Writer

Saint Leo Students who want to pursue independent projects around the world have a wonderful opportunity coming up. Indeed, students looking to follow their academic passions and interests somewhere around the globe are encouraged to apply for the Yvain Grant.

As described by Kenneth Posner, Associate Vice President of Student Services, on the Saint Leo website, "Yvain the knight of the Lion was known as a valiant knight who sat at the wound table with King Arthur and was known for his sense of adventure and love of travel."

The Yvain Study Abroad Project Grant of Saint Leo University wants to stimulate students to open their horizons on the world through a study abroad project or an experimental-learning opportunity.

In order to be eligible for one of the eight awards, evenly distributed of $1,250 for the pursuit of an international project, students need to meet two criteria. First, students must be enrolled full-time at Saint Leo University. Second, they must have a minimum of 2.7 GPA.

Students must complete an application form, which must contain some general information about their Yvain project, a 750-word project description, a 750-word personal statement, a tentative itinerary, and a budget (description of costs) for their travel.

The application can be found on the Saint Leo website and must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. (Eastern) on Mar. 18. They have to be emailed to Dr. David Felsen at david.felsen@saintleo.edu. As requested, please indicate "Yvain Application" in the subject line of the email. The awardees will be announced by Mar. 30.

Felsen is the executive director of the office of International Affair, and has been involved in this program since the beginning in 2014.

According to Felsen, the goal of Yvain Grant is, "To offer students the opportunity to pursue an international project, which they design. Students can travel anywhere around the world to realize a dream or a goal with help from the University. It will be a valuable learning experience for students."

Felsen discussed a few of the fascinating projects that have been made. Some of the countries visited last year included Peru, Italy, France and Costa Rica. The project in Italy explored small and medium sized businesses as an independent study. The project in Costa Rica became involved with an existing research institute.

Photo Courtesy of Edward Yount and Glen Pringle

(From left to right) Edward Yount (alumni) and Glen Pringle (senior), hiked the El Camino Pilgrimage Trail in Spain in 2014 when they were both juniors.

The Division of Academic Affair at Saint Leo University funds the Yvain Study Abroad program. Last year, approximately 10 applications were received and this year the committee, formed of three people, expects approximately 50 applications because it is better publicized than the previous years.

The type of projects to be realized are wide open but are suggested to be research oriented, to be a service experience or to be a visit a special site around the world.

The best core value to describe the awards is personal development because the awardees will grow from the experience. Responsible Stewardship is another important core value since students will learn to be responsible for themselves in accomplishing a goal of their own.

Asked where he sees the Yvain Grant in the next 5 years, Felsen hopes the impact of the awards will continue to grow, the awardees will become ambassadors following their return from fulfilling their travels and he expects that more funds will be allocated in the future.

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Campaign 2016

Meet the Presidential Primary Candidates

By Brian Cerosky
Contributing Writer

With the Florida primary fast approaching on Mar. 15, any and all registered voters should be prepared to cast their votes for their chosen candidates. Florida is a unique primary state in which a registered voter must have registered before the deadline, which are set in Florida 29 days before a state-wide election, and declared themselves to be either a part of the Democratic or Republican parties, called a "closed primary" state.

Those who have met these requirements are also encouraged to know about the candidate they wish to vote for. Such information is provided below for each major candidate left in the Presidential Race, starting with the Democrats and them moving on to the Republicans.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is also a former First Lady and Senator for the state of New York, has been enjoying a front-runner status since she started running for the nomination back in early 2015. Clinton's platform consists of various points, most notably her continued support of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), her proposal to reduce the costs of college education, and her goal to eliminate Alzheimer's Disease by the year 2026. Clinton's campaign though has come under fire by critics in both parties and by her opponents, first being Governor Martin O'Malley (who dropped out of the race) and later Senator Bernie Sanders for her email scandal, wall street backing, and flip-flopping on various issues throughout her time in politics. Despite her shortcomings, she has managed to take 3 of the 4 early primary states in the race for the Democratic Nomination and is in a virtual tie with Sanders in national polls.

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has been active in politics for over 40 years, starting out as a mayor of the largest city in Vermont in 1981, becoming a member of the House in 1990, and then becoming a Senator of the same state in 2006. He takes pride in walking with Martin Luther King Jr. on his March on Washington as well as his identity as a "democratic socialist." Sanders' platform has major points as well, the three biggest involving the implementation of universal healthcare, free college education, and closing tax loopholes for the rich to reduce the income inequality gap. Sanders has been fighting an uphill campaign against Clinton since he announced his bid for the presidency back in Apr. 2015, with only recent popularity polls putting him up nationally. Sanders has received much criticism from the Clinton campaign, saying that universal healthcare will never come to pass, and that his ideas are too ambitious for this day and age.

Picture From Twitter @HillaryClinton
Picture From Twitter @BernieSanders

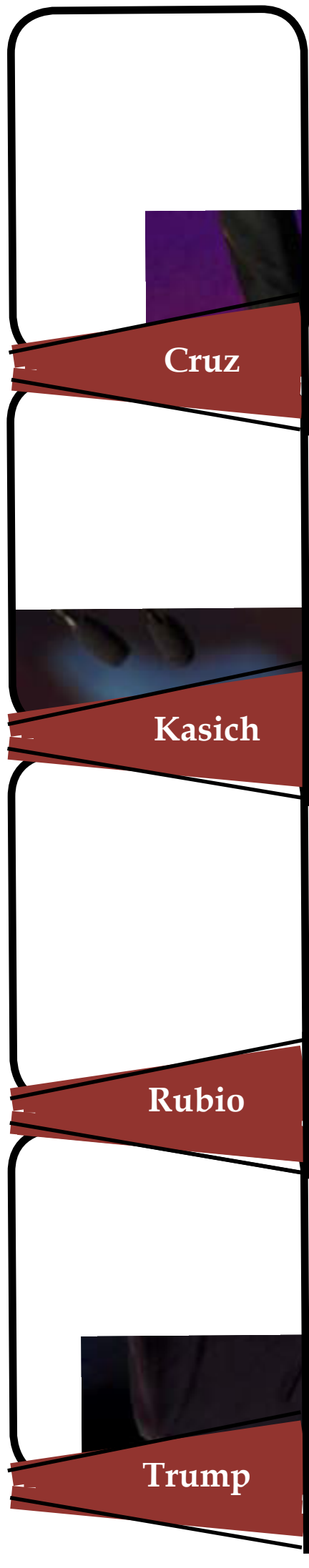
For the Republican nomination, the front-runner since the very first republican debate has been Donald Trump, a well-known business man and entrepreneur of "The Trump Organization" based in New York, New York. Trump took over his father's business after being granted it in 1971, making his fortune by buying and constructing real estate in major cities across the US and Canada. Trump has proposed many interesting policies if he were to become President, including his infamous construction of a wall separating the United States from Mexico in an effort to curb the influx of illegal immigrants from Latin America. Other policies include his plan to deport nearly 12 million illegal immigrants currently residing within the US and has plans to "stand up to China at the negotiating table" in an effort to put forth American business interests ahead of China's, or any other country for that matter. Trump's controversial comments about Mexican-Americans and Muslims living in the country has given him the status of "ratings gold", with the vast majority of news media covering his campaign and persona for much of the republican race, in the process facing harsh criticism from people within both parties.

Senator Ted Cruz has been the runner up in the Republican primary race since his surprising win over Trump in the state of Iowa, and has gone on to raise popular support in key Southern states, including his home state of Texas, although Trump continues to lead slightly in the majority of these states. Cruz has been active in politics for over 20 years and has his own unique ideas to implement if he were to become President of the United States. Cruz states that he would "protect the people's right to worship" as President by protecting "persecuted Christians" within the US and defend the first few rights outlined in the Bill of Rights, stating that "America was founded on a revolutionary idea. Our ideas do not come from government. They come from God." Cruz states he has always been a staunch defender of the Constitution, vowing he will "restore our Constitution" which has been "defied" by the most recent administration, also stating that "our founding fathers [created the Constitution] to act as chains to bind the mischief of government to protect the liberties endowed to us by our Creator." Cruz also vowed on his first day as President to investigate Planned Parenthood, and to "restore a culture of life, marriage, and family" by outlining marriage be between a man and a woman.

The last major candidate in the republican race is Senator Marco Rubio, a Florida native who has served in Congress as both a House and Senate member for a cumulative 16 years. Rubio has put forward a similar plan as Cruz to repeal Obamacare and aims to "replace it with consumer-centered health reforms." He also aims to reform higher education, allowing for students to apply for "Student Investment Plans (SIP's)" by "approved investors" and then repay the money back to said investors based on what they earn after college. Rubio also arguably has the most comprehensive stance on foreign policy, vowing to stand with Israel against her opponents such as Iran and the Palestinians, to repeal the "flawed" Iran deal and stand up to the Iranian government, and finally to put forward plans to once and for all deal with Putin's aggressive nature towards Syria and Ukraine and to freeze Russian assets in Europe and abroad.

The Republican candidate who is currently doing the worst in the polls is John Kasich, the Governor of Ohio. He was elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2014. Kasich supports the right to bear arms, enacting gun defense legislation while in office. He opposes both Planned Parenthood and Obamacare, planning to have care focused on the patients with more choices and less centralized decision making. Kasich also wants to balance the nation's budget in eight years.

So overall the candidates for both parties are all distinct and have their own policies they plan on enacting once they become the next leader of the free world. Simply by looking up the main campaign website for each individual candidate can go much more in depth than what has been provided. An informed voter in this election may very well mean the difference between who becomes the next President and who doesn't.



Picture From Twitter @TedCruz
Picture From Twitter @JohnKasich
Picture From Twitter @MarcoRubio
Picture From Twitter @realDonaldTrump

Campus News

Food for Thought at the Columbia Restaurant

By Michayne Stoney
Contributing Writer

It is said that nothing brings people together like good food.

Here at the University, this is most certainly true as each month a Saint Leo University faculty or staff member hosts dinner at an exquisite restaurant. This provides a new and exciting way for students to socialize, expand their palate, and actively engage in acculturation. Past dining choices have included Japanese, Middle Eastern and Ethiopian cuisine, a mom and pop Italian spot, and even a piano bar for Valentine's Day.

Last month, for example, Paige Ramsey-Hamacher, Director for Multicultural and International Services, hosted dinner at the Columbia Restaurant, located in Ybor City. This restaurant was founded in 1905 by Cuban immigrant Casimiro Hernandez, Sr., and is not only Florida's oldest restaurant, but the largest Spanish restaurant in the world. Here, students were treated with an array of traditional Columbian dishes, as well as a captivating Flamenco performance.

"Food for Thought has been going on for many, many years, and I think it is an excellent opportunity for students and faculty to interact in a different atmosphere. Everyone seems to enjoy it since it's been going on for over twelve years, and students keep coming back," said Ramsey-Hamacher.

Carol Hope-Grant, Senior Coordinator for the Center for Student Success, also shared similar sentiments.

"There is something profoundly satisfying about sharing a meal. Eating together, breaking bread together, is one of the oldest and most fundamentally unifying of human experiences," said Hope-Grant. "Food for Thought does an excellent job in bringing together people who normally would not socialize with each other. Though I may not enjoy the food at one restaurant, I always look forward to visiting other restaurants, and experience other traditional cuisines. I particular like socializing with students. Typically, I would not have the opportunity to talk and engage with such students."

"Though the food was not anything I was used to, I enjoyed the dance performances, and the service was superior," said Freshman Riche Deleveaux.

"I enjoyed both the food and the performance. I initially was reluctant to try new food, but I am really happy I went and gave it a try. I am definitely looking forward to future Food for Thought events," said Danielle Meikle.

With ticket prices ranging from $5-$10, Food for Thought is definitely a well-worth-it experience. It generally happens at the end of each month so be sure to look out for these tickets on the Saint Leo University ticket webpage.

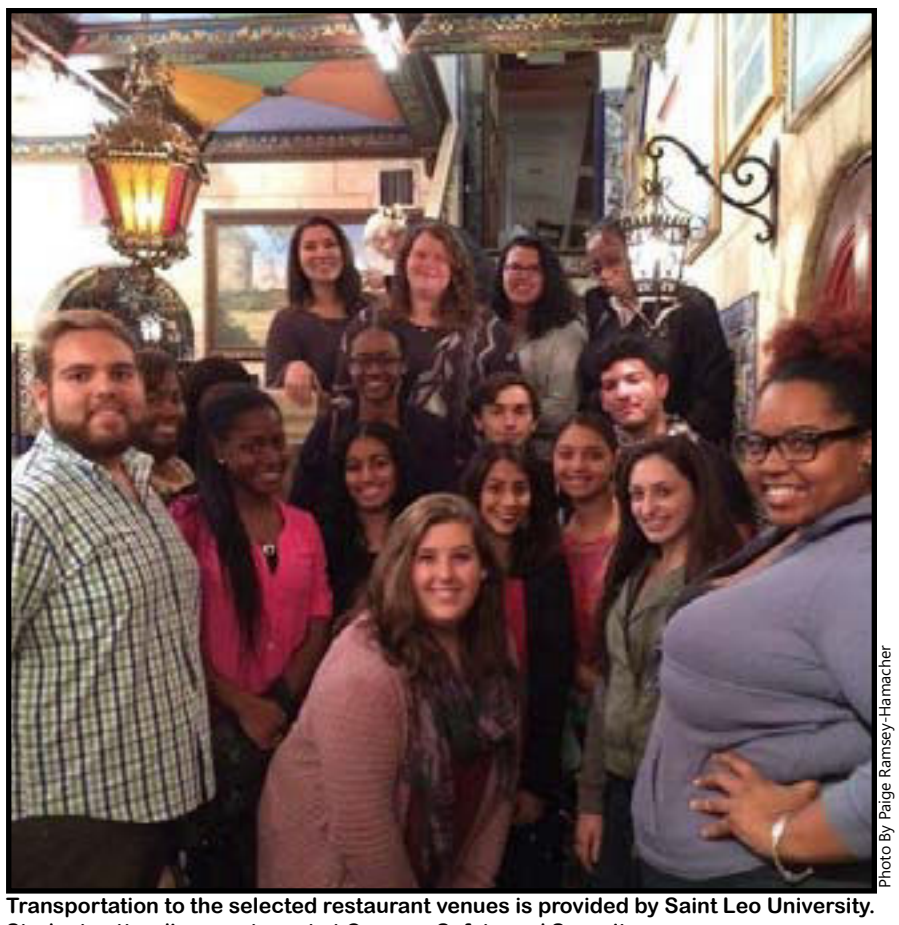


Photo By Paige Ramsey-Hamacher

Transportation to the selected restaurant venues is provided by Saint Leo University. Students attending must meet at Campus Safety and Security.

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Arts & Entertainment

Spring Break Safety Tips

By Samantha Corcoran and Erin Gaylord
Contributing Writer
Online Editor

As spring break starts and students sprint to their cars and head for the beach, they sometimes fail to see all the things that could go wrong. Some things to consider before heading out for spring break fun include driving, where to stay, ATM/card theft, drinking, dangers of going to the beach, sexual consent and problems with leaving the country.

When going on a road trip or traveling place to place, one must practice safe driving. To make sure everyone is staying safe it is better to take turns while driving to ensure awareness. The person who is seated in the passenger seat should make sure the driver stays awake on long distance trips. Be sure to always carry valid identification as well as vehicle registration and insurance.

To decrease one's chances of getting lost, be sure to take a phone charger that can plug into the car. Additionally, bring a map in case the GPS isn't working. When leaving a vehicle, be sure to hide all valuable possessions so they are not in plain sight. Locking them in the trunk is a good way to be sure they aren't stolen.

Some people who do not have cars or who plan on drinking and want to take alternate transportation should be aware of the options. When taking a taxi, always make sure you know the pricing prior to entering the vehicle. Stay alert during the ride, whether it is a taxi or an Uber driver. To ensure nothing is stolen or left behind, keep all belongings together. Always check to see if the individual driving seems intoxicated or not. Never get in a vehicle with an intoxicated driver behind the wheel, as there are always cabs and public transportation available.

When using other modes of transportation like subways and buses, be careful of pick pockets in these crowded and cramped areas. It is much easier for a pick pocket to swipe something from a bag or pocket when there are many people bumping into each other. Some easy ways to avoid this are using a lock for backpack zippers and use an over-the-shoulder purse.

People love to travel over spring break, and they often stay in hotels. It is useful to plan out where to stay ahead of time. According to www.SafeSpringBreak.org, it is a good idea to stay in rooms above the first floor yet below the sixth floor. This is important because the first floor is easily broken into whereas the sixth floor and above are not easily accessed by firefighter ladders.

Be sure to use discretion when checking in at any hotel. Predators may be lurking in the lobby and listening in to find out where people are staying to target those who are alone. They often listen for names and room numbers, so be sure to never say these things too loud.

When staying at a hotel, it is smart to check the locks on both the doors and the windows to ensure safety. Also, identify where all fire emergency exits are and where the stairs are. Any time the room is left unattended, the door must be securely closed, and any valuable items need to be put away in case housekeeping comes through to clean the room. Take a business card before leaving the hotel in case one needs directions back to the hotel.

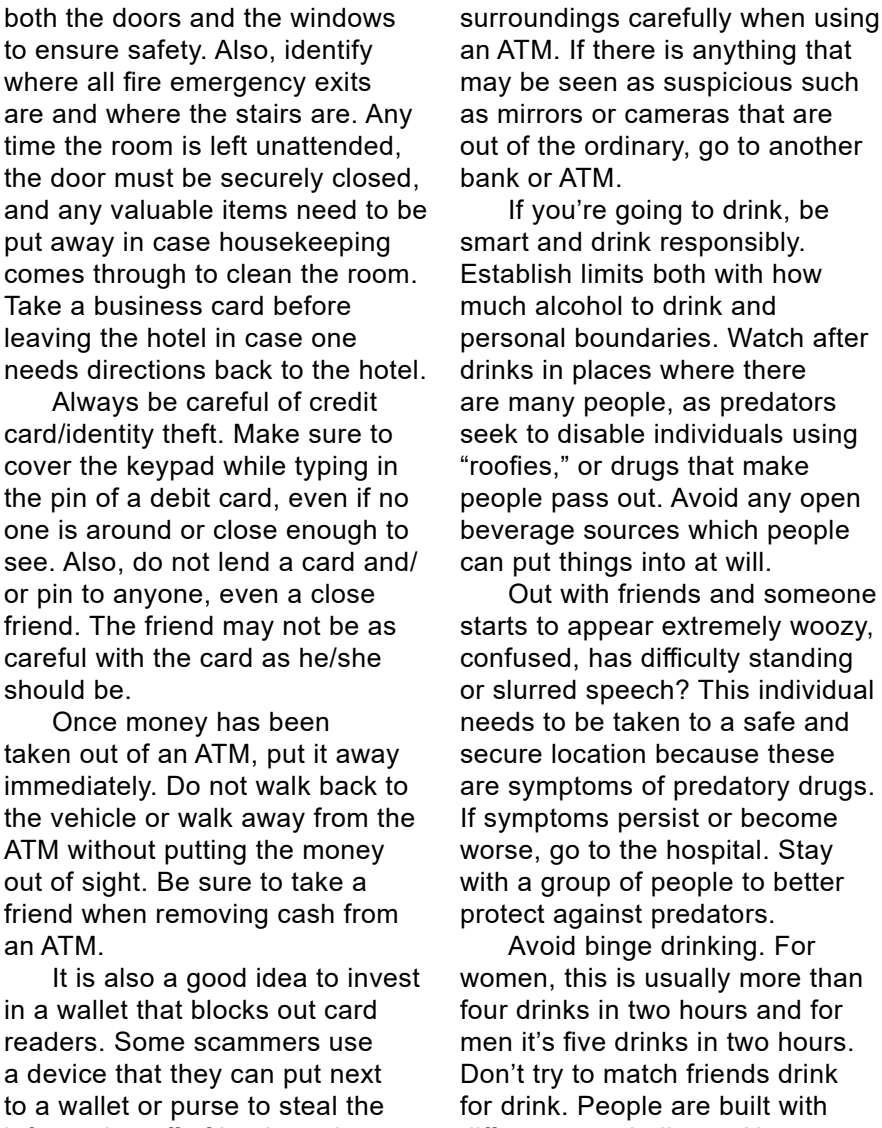

Photo From Wikimedia Commons

Be careful of dangerous rip currents or red tide when enjoying the beach this spring break.

Always be careful of credit card/identity theft. Make sure to cover the keypad while typing in the pin of a debit card, even if no one is around or close enough to see. Also, do not lend a card and/or pin to anyone, even a close friend. The friend may not be as careful with the card as he/she should be.

Once money has been taken out of an ATM, put it away immediately. Do not walk back to the vehicle or walk away from the ATM without putting the money out of sight. Be sure to take a friend when removing cash from an ATM.

It is also a good idea to invest in a wallet that blocks out card readers. Some scammers use a device that they can put next to a wallet or purse to steal the information off of bank cards and make a counterfeit card with access to one's bank account. This is called Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). Make sure to buy a wallet or card holders that block RFID.

If anything looks suspicious about an ATM, like a mechanism attached to the slot where the card is inserted, do not insert a card. Scammers use these devices to access people's bank accounts when unsuspecting customers use the ATM.

Be sure to check the surroundings carefully when using an ATM. If there is anything that may be seen as suspicious such as mirrors or cameras that are out of the ordinary, go to another bank or ATM.

If you're going to drink, be smart and drink responsibly. Establish limits both with how much alcohol to drink and personal boundaries. Watch after drinks in places where there are many people, as predators seek to disable individuals using "roofies," or drugs that make people pass out. Avoid any open beverage sources which people can put things into at will.

Out with friends and someone starts to appear extremely woozy, confused, has difficulty standing or slurred speech? This individual needs to be taken to a safe and secure location because these are symptoms of predatory drugs. If symptoms persist or become worse, go to the hospital. Stay with a group of people to better protect against predators.

Avoid binge drinking. For women, this is usually more than four drinks in two hours and for men it's five drinks in two hours. Don't try to match friends drink for drink. People are built with different metabolisms. Always pace how many drinks versus how long it has been. Be aware of the strength of the different liquors that are being served to account for extra time needed to let them wear off or before drinking another. Try to eat before consuming any type of alcohol so that any alcohol consumed will not take effect as quickly.

If anyone is intoxicated and trying to drive, stop him/her. It is both extremely dangerous for the driver and others on the road. To avoid drinking and driving, make

Photo From Wikimedia Commons

Don't trust open drinks someone else has bought for you, they may be laced drugs.

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plans ahead of time to ensure transportation to and from a location.

Spring break means fun in the sun and a good time on the beach. However, many individuals fail to recognize the safety hazards involved with being in the water and under the sun. One main concern is to stay hydrated. Drink more than the recommended daily dose of water on days out under the hot sun.

To avoid sunburn, use waterproof sunscreen with at least 30SPF. Also, stay out of the sun around the time of day where UV rays are most intense. Additionally, drinking on the beach can lead to a bad sun burn and an even worse hangover, the sun maximizes the effects of alcohol. Be mindful of drinking and the rays of the sun.

Drinking in a hot tub may seem like a good idea, but the effects of alcohol are felt faster and stronger. This makes it easier for individuals to become more intoxicated and leads to dangerous situations such as drowning.

Look for a life guard prior to jumping into the water to cool off. If there isn't a life guard on duty, then it isn't safe to jump in. Also look for flags. The flagging system is supposed to help advise you on whether to swim or not swim in a certain location. Red warns of a strong undertow and riptides. Yellow cautions swimmers to the possibility of some undertow and possible riptides. Blue flags mean clam water and that it's safe to swim, according to www.SafeSpringBreak.org.

In case of a sexual encounter, never try anything unless each person involved clearly gives consent. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary: consent is to give permission for something to happen or be done. Consent is something that people believe should be given freely and must be given verbally. Silence does not equal consent. Consent is not to be assumed or implied regardless of a persons' history.

Consent cannot be given by an individual if they are under the influence or intoxicated in any manner, especially if the person has said no prior to becoming intoxicated. Avoid drugs and alcohol abuse, as these can lead to bad decision making. Before going out, make sure to set limits or make the decision ahead of time.

To avoid miscommunication, talk openly and honestly with the other person. This should not feel awkward because if it is, the individuals probably shouldn't be trying to do this type of thing in the first place.

For those going out of the country this coming week, be sure to get familiar with the rules of the foreign country and what places to avoid. Don't go to another country without knowing the driving rules and regulations. The laws may be different than that of the U.S.

Make sure to know the equivalent of 911 for the area you are going to. Have identification on one's person at all times, including passports or visas.

Be sure to have an up to date passport and all necessary documentation needed to be in a foreign country. Before packing, look over the rules of what can be taken on a flight.

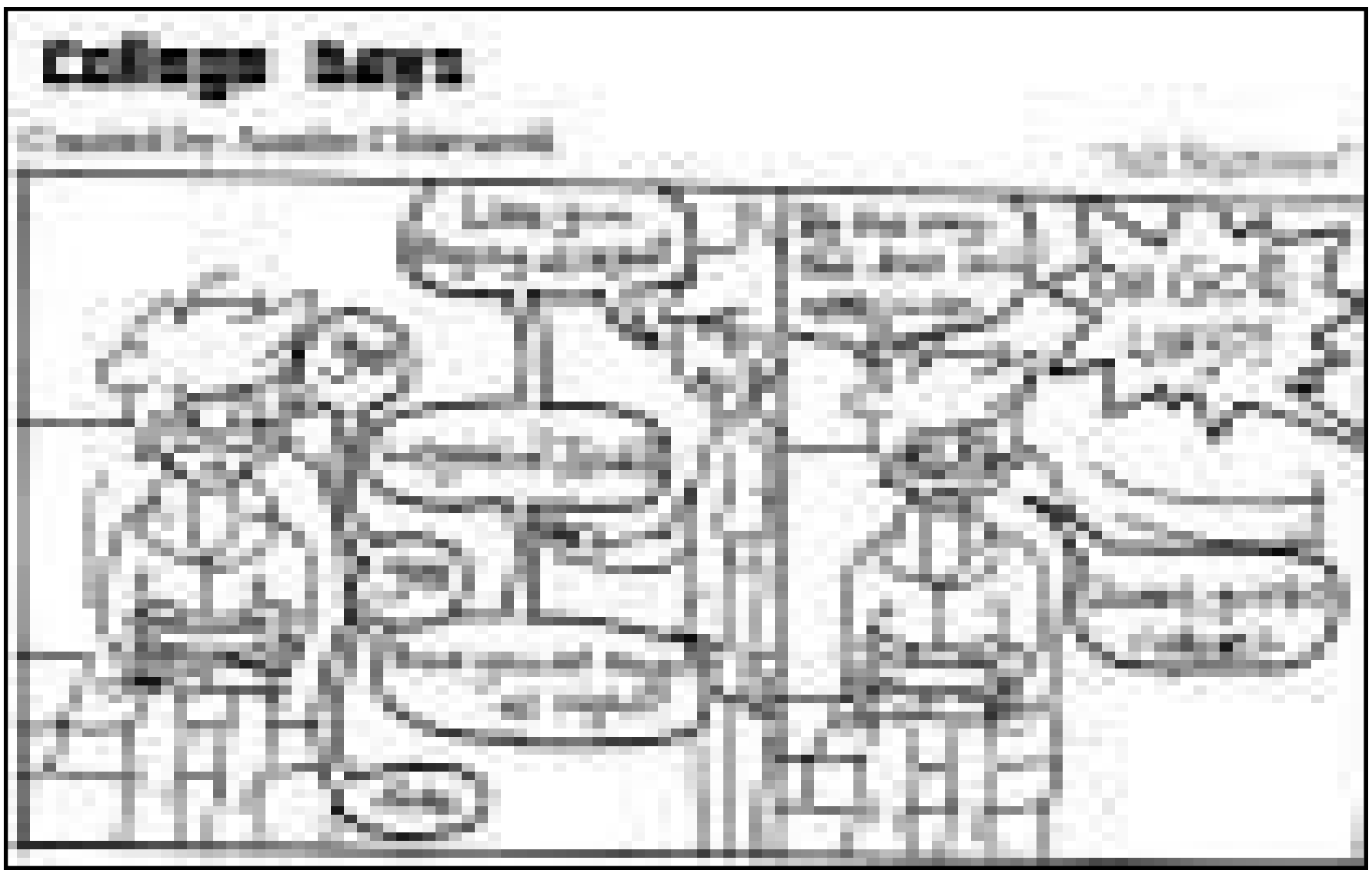
Also, do not bring large lump sums of cash as it may be easily stolen. Try to keep cash to a minimum if possible, and don't bring flashy items that will attract the eyes of thieves. In some countries there is a limit to how much cash one is allowed to bring. However, no country limits the number of credit cards one can bring.

No matter where you're going, be safe this spring break.

Current Events

March 12 - 20 - Spring Break Activities Near Campus

February 6- March 20- Bay Area Resaissance Festival @ MOSI
March 3-13- Florida Strawberry Festival in Plant City
March 12 - Land O' Lakes Spring Music Festival & Expo
March 17 - Saint Patrick's Day Street Parade @ Wiregrass Mall
March 17- April 3 - CLEAVE Play @ Tampa's Silver Meteor Gallery
March 19 - RPG Gaming @ The New River Branch Library
March 19- Dogs Day @ The Dade City Chamber of Commerce
March 20 - Fresh Market @ Wiregrass Mall
March 20 - Palm Sunday



Sports

Lions Go Dancing

By Matthew Vandenburgh
Sports Editor

Out of 38 teams in the South Region, the Saint Leo Lions finished the regular season ranked in the top eight, earning a spot in the NCAA Division 2 National Championship tournament. This is the team's first appearance in the tournament since the 2013-2014 season.

With a record of 19-11, and without winning their conference tournament, the Lions were a long-shot to make the tournament, but the selection committee saw enough quality wins that the team made it in as the eighth seed. This gives them a tough climb, as there has only been one eight seed to beat a one seed since 2009. This is not an impossible task however, as the Lions will play against host Alabama-Huntsville, a team they defeated earlier in the season.

Head Coach Vince Alexander was not worried about their challenge either.

"We're not concerned about being an 8 seed. We're a team that's earned the right to be in the NCAA tournament, and that's just the way we look at it. We're an NCAA tournament team, we're going in and we're preparing to play and be the best team that we can possibly be," said Coach Alexander.

It will be interesting to see how the Lions do in their second game against the Chargers, and while they always expect to do well, the team is always looking to improve.

"We gotta rebound better. It might help if we get John (Johnathan Childs) back. 6' 10" sophomore that sat out the last 4-5 games. It would be nice to have him back. Rebounding has been an Achilles's for us, so hopefully we will be able to get better in that area in the next week, and win some games," said Coach Alexander.

Offense should not be a problem for the team though. The Lions have a potent three headed monster in Junior Marcus Dewberry, Sophomore Caleb Stewart and Sophomore Tyreece Brice.

With those players averaging 20, 15.1 and 15 points per game respectively, they are a tough trio to deal with. Brice in particular is dangerous, shooting over 50 percent from the field.

"Those three guys all do a good job for us and we definitely need those three to play well in order for us to be successful, and God willing they'll continue to do that," said Coach Alexander.

This is the first season under Coach Alexander, and following a losing season, expectations were not high. It was a popular opinion that it would take the accomplished coach a year or two to bring the team back to its winning ways, and so it was surprising to see it get done immediately; to everyone except the team.

"I came in this hoping to win right away and get this thing turned around, but I don't think the expectations were there, to accomplish what we've accomplished. Probably we were the only ones that expected to be in this position, and that's because we're gonna try to compete in every game we play, and every situation whether it's practice, shoot around or whatever it is. So I think our guys have adopted that personality and attitude, and I think it has paid great dividends for us," said Coach Alexander.

Saint Leo will look to take that mentality to Alabama on Saturday, March 12 when they begin their postseason push for a national championship.

Men's Golf Ranked Best in the Country

By Matthew Vandenburgh
Sports Editor

After the win in the Men's golf first game of the season, the 35th annual Matlock Collegiate Classic on Feb. 9, the Lions are ranked as the best team in the country in both Bushnell Golfweek Division II Coaches Poll and the GolfStat ranking.

Not only did the Lions win as a team, but one of the players, Liam Ainsworth, brought back home the individual title.

The Lions successfully began their championship season by taking part in the tournament held by Florida Southern at the Lone Palm Golf Club in Lakeland Fla. For the fifth consecutive year as a Sunshine State Conference team, they won the game. Saint Leo Lions finished the game with a score of 869 (+5), and they defeated 14 other teams.

A senior Liam Ainsworth managed to complete the final round of the tournament with a score of 75 (+3) on the second day of the tournament, which allowed him to win the individual title. Ainsworth's performance and the team's victory had a significant impact on the team's place in the national rankings.

Currently, Saint Leo Men's golf is ranked as the best team the nation according to the Bushnell Golfweek Division II Coaches Poll. In the tournament, the Lions defeated 8 other teams that had been placed among top-25 in the same ranking.

Moreover, on Feb.19th the GolfStat also announced its ranking in which the Lions are placed first as well. Unlike the Coaches Poll, GolfStat ranking is based on the team's performance only, and it compiles results from every tournament in which the team participated.

Both rankings provide the team with the nationwide recognition, and they indicate how talented the players are. Being ranked as the best team in the country based on coaches' opinions, as well as the team's results, is a prestigious award and it can be another motivation to perform well during the season.

The team has planned to participate in five other tournaments this spring. The games will allow the Lions to gain experience that they might need in the championship tournaments that will follow the regular season.

The first championship tournament in which the Lions will participate is the Sunshine State Conference Championship on April, 17 in Key Biscayne, Fla. The tournament will be followed by regional and national championships coming up in May.

The men's golf team more recently came back to action at the South/Southeastern Regional Preview at the Mission Inn Resort and Club El Campeyn course on March first. After the first two rounds the lions sat at fourth place but by the end of the final round they moved up to third place. Saint Leo finished nine strokes off of second place.

Saint Leo's men's golf will hit the course again for a three day tournament on March thirteenth in the Southeastern Intercollegiate which will take place at Valdosta State in Valdosta, GA.

The team has already made history many times by representing Saint Leo University on the highest level. Not only the Lions qualified for the national championships multiple times, but also they finished the tournaments as one of the best teams in the country.

Stay tuned to the Lions Pride Newspaper to learn more about the team's progress and statistics during the season as the Lions continue their campaign in the new championship season.

Upcoming Games For the Week of 3/12/16 - 3/18/16

M Basketball

3/12: @ Ala.-Huntsville 5:00 pm

Softball

3/12: Vs Lynn 1:00pm
3/12: Vs Lynn 3:00pm
3/15: Vs Caldwell 11:00 am
3/15: Vs Caldwell 1:00pm
3/18: Vs Fla. Southern 7:00pm

Baseball

3/12: Vs Tampa 3:00 pm
3/12: Vs Tampa 6:00 pm
3/15: Vs Minn.-Crookston 6: 00pm
3/16: Vs Bridgeport 6:00pm
3/18: Vs Rollins 6:00pm

M Tennis

3/12: Vs Auburn University at Montgomery 11:00am
3/13: Vs North Georgia 2:00pm
3/15: Vs West Fla. 10:00am
3/18: Vs Metro St. (@ Denver, Co) 10:00am

W Tennis

3/13: Vs Northeastern St.11:00am
3/15: Vs West Fla. 10:00am
3/18: Vs St. Mary's (Tex) (@Denver, Co) 10:30am

M Track

3/12: @ USF Invitational 11:00am

W Track

3/12: @ USF Invitational 11:00am

M Lacrosse

3/12: Vs Lees-McRae 1:00pm
3/15: Vs Colorado Mesa 7:00pm

W Lacrosse

3/15: @ Pfeiffer 4:00pm
3/17: @ Limestone 4:00pm

W Golf

@ Miami, Fla.
3/14: Barry Invitational
3/15: Barry Invitational

M Golf

@ Valdosta, Ga.
3/13: Southeastern Intercollegiate
3/14: Southeastern Intercollegiate
3/15: Southeastern Intercollegiate

M Swimming

3/12: NCAA Championships

W Swimming

3/12: NCAA Championships